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Plasticozoic

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PLASTICOZOIC



Mariah Armstrong Conner

"Future geologists will be able to precisely mark our era as the Plasticozoic, the place in the sands of time in which bits of plastic first appeared."

-Oceanographer Sylvia A. Earle, *The World is Blue: How Our Fate and the Ocean's are One*

Plasticozoic excavates humanity's relationship to nature and to ourselves through plastic artifacts of consumer culture, which were recovered from oceans and beaches by the artist, or sent to her from around the world. Through created specimens and collected fragments of the Anthropocene, it contemplates the precariousness of our place in time, when misperceptions of reality and the collective impact of our every day lives can have global effects.

III: TIPPING POINT PROJECT, 2018

- Blown glass, sorted plastic debris collected over a two year span from along the California coast. The number references the years since the 1907 invention of Bakelite, the first fully synthetic polymer. These common plastic items don't biodegrade, and a bottle cap or straw can continue to exist in the environment for over 400 years.





ARTIFACTS OF THE ANTHROPOCENE, 2017-18

- Disodium tetraborate, marine debris. Crystals were grown by immersing marine debris in a saturated solution of $\text{B}_4\text{Na}_2\text{O}_7$









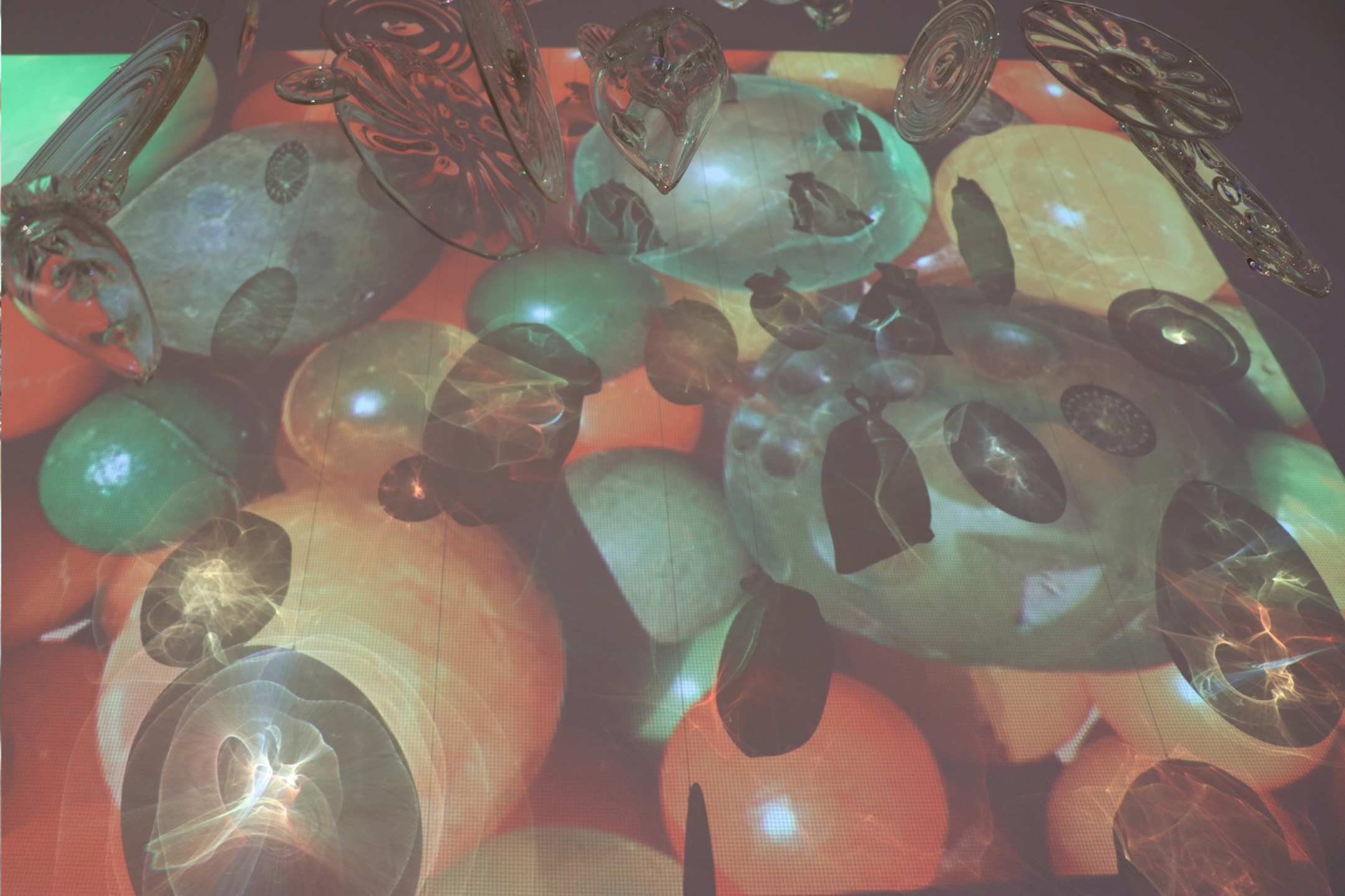
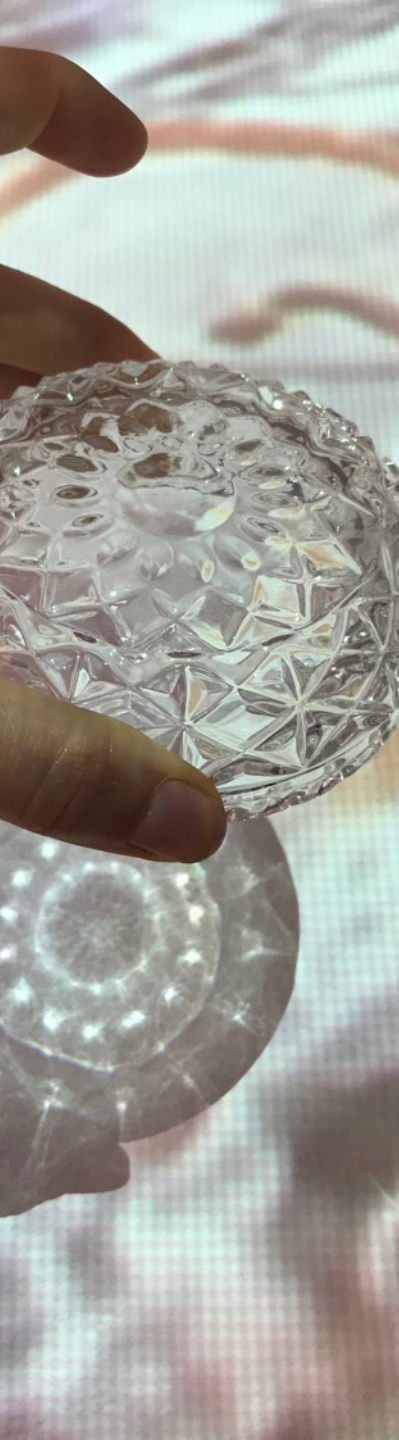
ARTIFACTS OF THE ANTHROPOCENE (TRAP), 2017

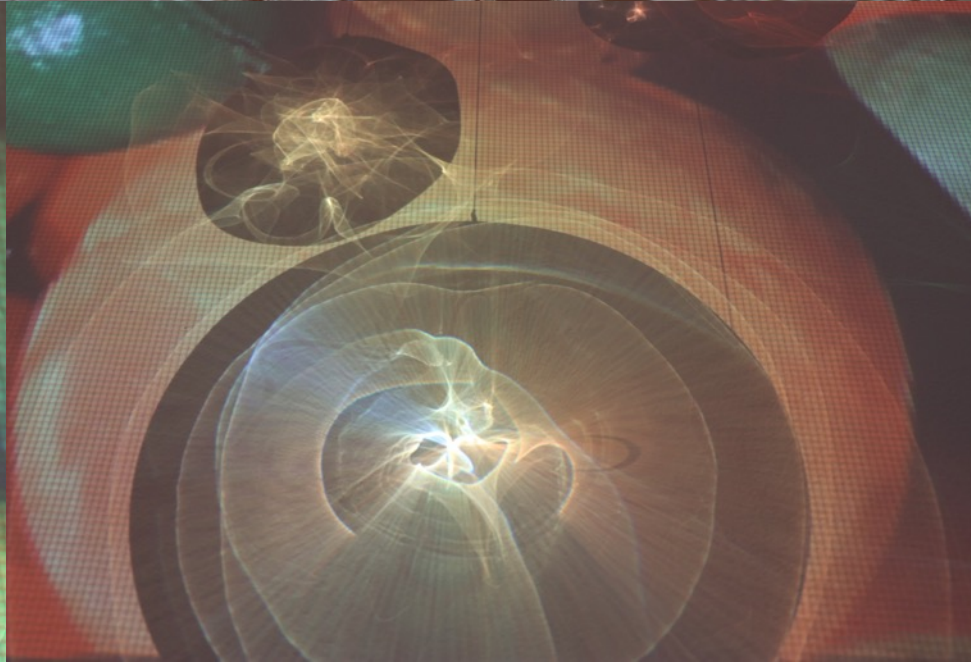
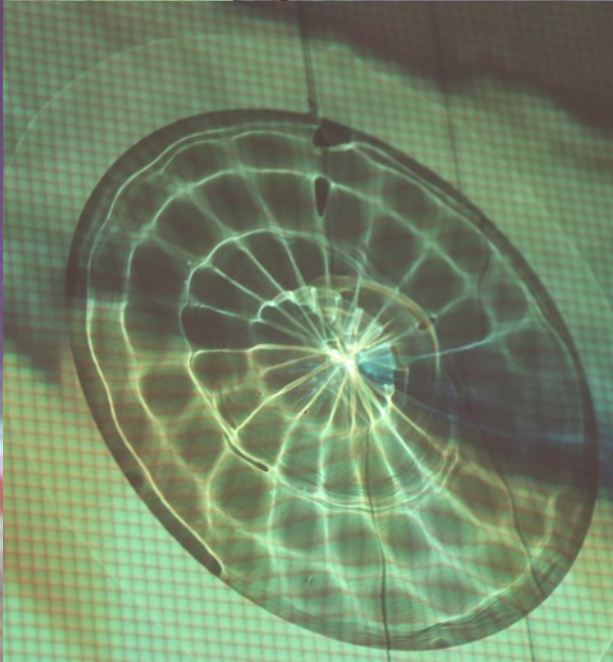
- Disodium tetraborate, lobster trap (found with all items tangled onto it, including fishing rod, reel, line, lures, rope, sunglasses, frisbee, shedded clothes and plastic bags.) Crystals were grown by immersing in a saturated solution of $B_4Na_2O_7$.

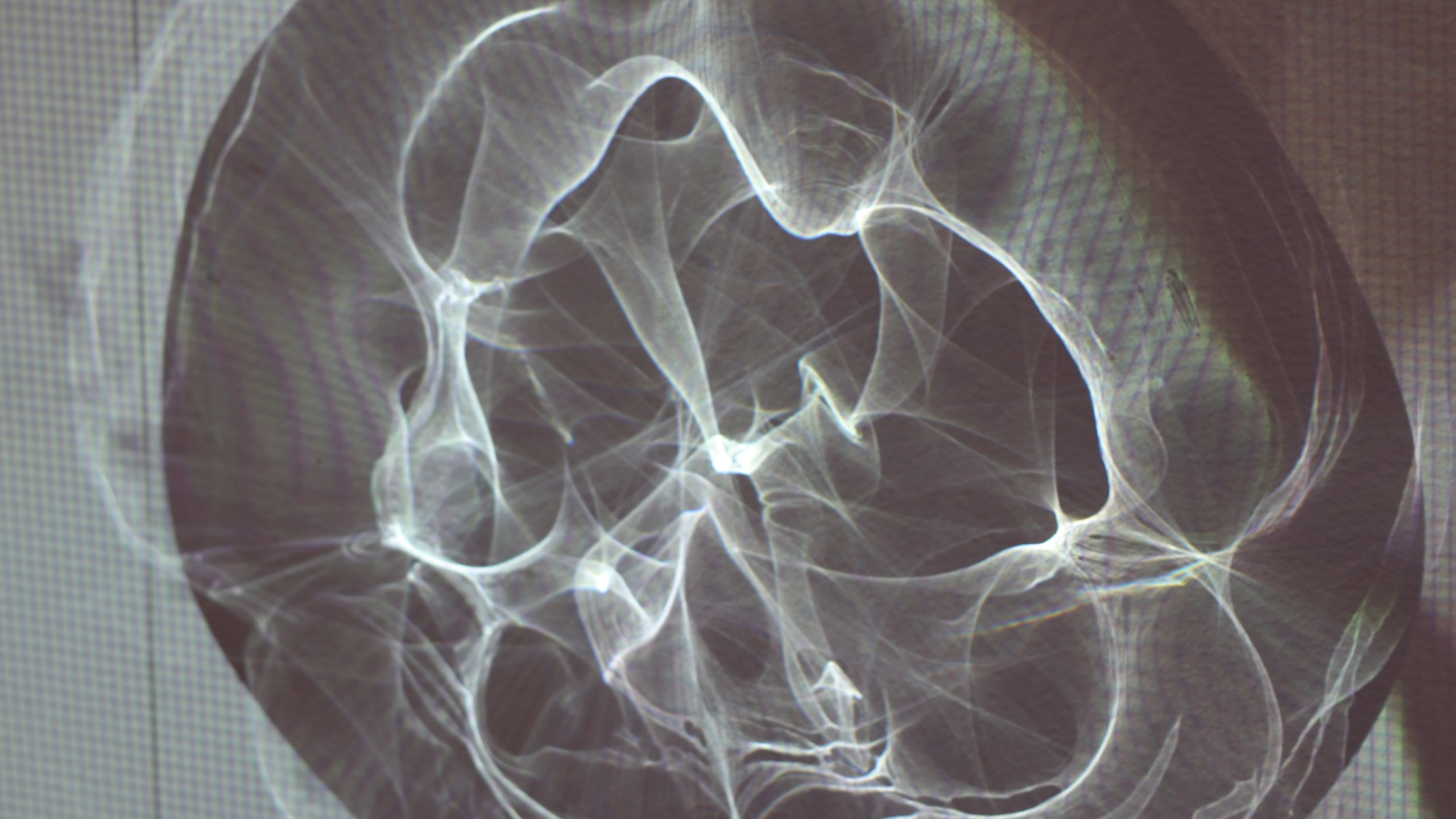


OPTICAL DELUSIONS, 2018

- Blown glass, video projection of ocean and marine debris





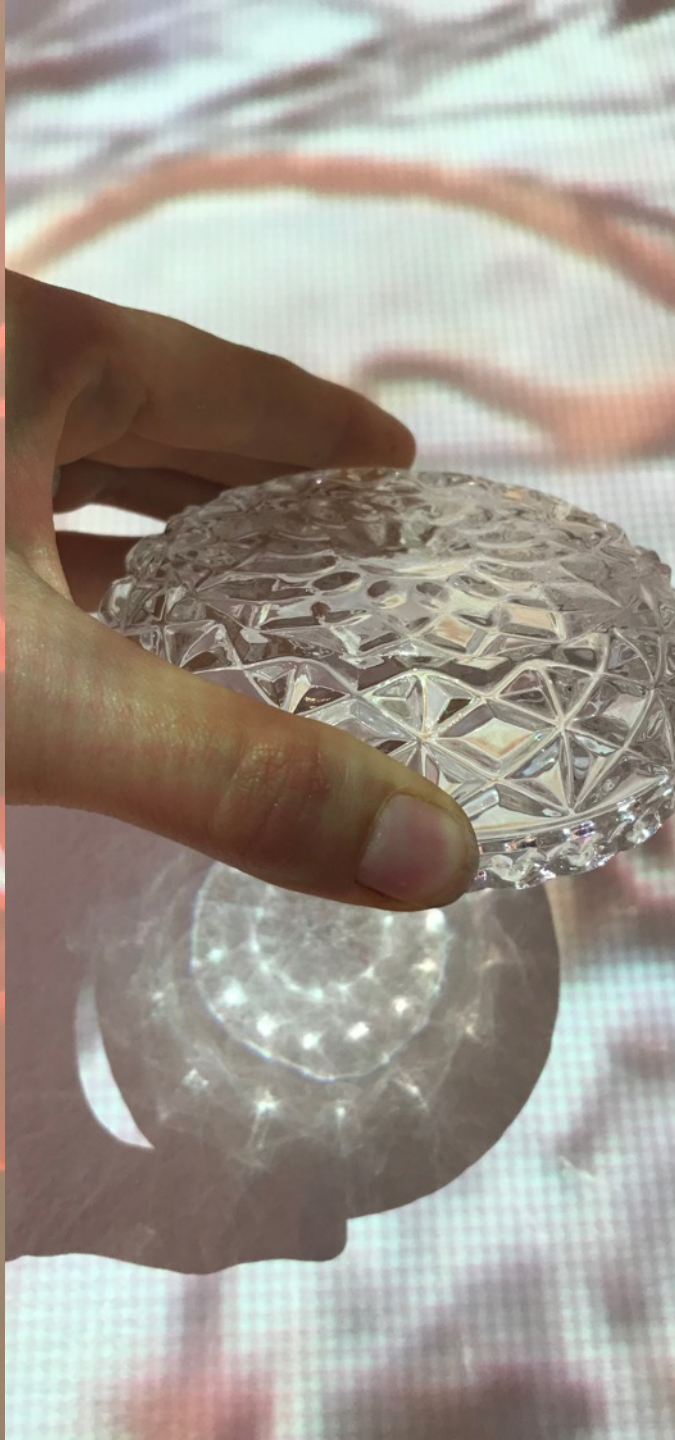




OPTICAL DELUSIONS, DIY, 2018

- Participants, Glass, video projection of ocean and marine debris.

Note to Participants: Please feel free to pick up these pieces and use them to interact with the projection! (:

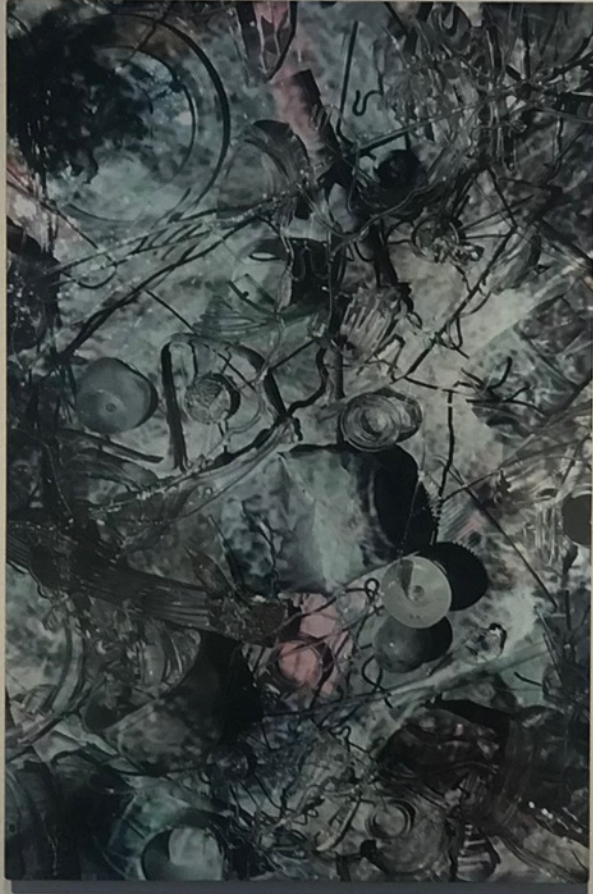






BROKEN SEASCAPE I, II, III, 2017

- Digital photograph on aluminum, created by projecting images of plastic pollution onto a surface of marine debris and broken, recycled glass.



TIDINGS OF THE TOSSED AND THE LOST, 2018

- Blown, sculpted and recycled glass, marine debris. The plastic detritus in these bottles was sent from around the world by participants who responded to an open invitation to participate in the project via social media, @mariaharmstrongart. Once in the ocean, plastics can ride currents to the other side of the globe, and often impact remote islands and habitats thousand of miles from the point of origin.





Left to right:

Plasticozoic Specimen, 2018

Sand cast impression of marine debris.

Anthropocite

Blown glass, copper electroforming,
found glass.

Fragments of Travel and Time, 2018

Blown glass and found objects from
Dead Horse Bay, New York, NY.

Protrusion Delusion, 2018

Blown glass, Marine debris.

Perspective Reflective, 2018

Blown glass and marine debris.





